

Dayton as the location to increase our Nation's air forces. Three military installations, Wilbur Wright Field, the Fairfield Aviation General Supply Depot, and McCook Field, were opened in 1917 to assist the military with aviation development. The use of Wilbur Wright Field as a government installation dates back to May of 1917, 90 years ago this month.

As the birthplace of aviation, Dayton, Ohio is proud to be the home of one of the largest Air Force installations in the world. In fact, in 1924, Dayton citizens purchased over 4,500 acres of land for \$425,000 and provided the deeds to President Calvin Coolidge for the construction of a new aviation engineering center that later became part of WPAFB. The excellent and groundbreaking work of air development at WPAFB distinguishes the base as a landmark of tremendous historical importance. Dayton has been involved in flight from the Wright B Flyer to the F-22, the current stealth fighter.

The leadership responsibilities and innovative research currently undertaken at WPAFB are essential to the success and future air superiority of the United States Air Force (USAF). WPAFB serves as the headquarters for the branch's worldwide logistics system and all USAF systems development and procurement; the headquarters for National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC), the Department of Defense's primary source for foreign aerospace intelligence; an aeronautical engineering center; a major research laboratory; the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT); the second largest USAF medical center; and is crowned by the National Museum of the USAF, the largest military aviation museum in the world.

Madam Speaker, I trust that my colleagues will join me in honoring the 90th anniversary of WPAFB. The renowned work at WPAFB is considered by many as the backbone of the USAF and essential to our country's national security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was detained in a meeting in the Senate during rollcall vote 398. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge one of our key allies—the Republic of Azerbaijan—as it celebrates its 89th Annual Republic Day on May 28. After the fall of the Russian Empire, Azerbaijan proclaimed its independence on May 28, 1918. Unfortunately, the Red Army invaded Azerbaijan on April 28, 1920 preempting its reach for liberty for seventy years.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom came at a heavy price following the 1990 invasion of Baku by Soviet troops resulting in the death of more than one hundred thirty civilians. Moscow's rule, however, grew weaker and by 1991 popular pressure led the country to declare its independence. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan and on October 18, 1991 the Constitution was approved.

Given past Soviet rule and the difficult geopolitical environment, Azerbaijan's determination to look westward for its political and economic allies should be applauded.

Azerbaijan was among the first nations to offer the United States support in the Global War on Terror, providing airspace and airport use for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan was also the first Muslim nation to send troops to Iraq. Though bilateral cooperation on terrorism issues between the United States and Azerbaijan predates September 11, 2001, our relations were strengthened following Azerbaijan's immediate and unwavering support in the Global War on Terror.

Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States within international and regional institutions including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and NATO's Partnership for Peace Program. Azerbaijan also works together with the United States within the framework of the Organization for Democracy and Development—GUAM which is comprised of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The group was created as a political, economic, and strategic alliance aimed at overcoming common risks and threats and strengthening the independence and sovereignty of its member states.

During the last decade, Azerbaijan has implemented structural reforms and adopted numerous legislative changes to pave the way for further integration within the global economy. It has also been moving toward a more diversified economy that would achieve sustainable growth and meet the social and developmental needs of its population.

Since signing the "Contract of the Century" in 1994, Azerbaijan has developed its energy sources within the Caspian region to help diversify western energy supplies. On July 13, 2006 the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan main oil export pipeline was inaugurated while the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum natural gas pipeline is expected to be completed at the end of this month. In addition, in March 2007 Azerbaijan and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Security in the Caspian region aimed at strengthening our already strong cooperation with respect to the supply and transport of Caspian energy resources and bolstering energy security in the West.

Let us today congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on its forthcoming 89th Anniversary celebrations and continue to develop this important friendship between our two countries.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARCIA NEEL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marcia Neel, who, after serving the Clark County School District for nearly 30 years, will retire this year. She is an outstanding educator whose commitment to our community has made a profound difference to the students of Clark County School District.

Marcia currently serves as the Supervisor of the Secondary Music Program of the Clark County School District, where she oversees the music education of over 50,000 students. Marcia is a leader in the field of music education and she has served as President of the Nevada Music Educators Association on two separate terms. Marcia has also served as President of the Nevada Choral Directors Association and is a member of the National Executive Board of the National Association for Music Education (MENC). Marcia has also been recognized for her distinguished work in the classroom. In 1993, Marcia received the Nevada Music Educator of the Year Award. She was also recognized in 1993 by the Disney Channel as the National Performing Arts Teacher of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Marcia. Her passion and love of teaching have greatly enhanced the educational experience of many students in the Clark County School District. I thank her for her dedication and commitment and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING NEAL WADE AND THE ALABAMA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FOR BEING RATED NUMBER ONE BY SITE SELECTION MAGAZINE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Neal Wade and the Alabama Development Office for being selected as the winner of the 2006 Competitiveness Award by Site Selection magazine.

This is the second consecutive year that the Alabama Development Office has received this prestigious award. The award is being given to the Alabama Development Office based on its success in recruiting new investments and jobs to Alabama.

In 2006, a total of 586 companies undertook projects to set up operations or to expand existing facilities in Alabama. These projects represent more than \$3.1 billion in capital investment. The new and expanding businesses will also create approximately 24,780 jobs.

ADO is off to a fast start in 2007. Just this month, Alabama learned it will be the site of one of the largest economic development projects in the country. ThyssenKrupp, one of Germany's leading steel industries, announced it will build its \$3.7 billion steel plant in Alabama. ThyssenKrupp's new steel mill will create at least 2,700 new permanent jobs, and